Minimum wages to beedi workers in Orissa

2407. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minimum wages that are paid to the beedi workers per thousand manufactured beedis in the Orissa State;

(b) whether this rate is at par throughout the State of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Under the provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the State Government of Orissa has notified the rates of minimum wages for unskilled beedi workers at Rs. 70/- per day with effect from 1.5.2007 as applicable throughout the State.

Medical facility to beedi workers in Orissa

2408. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of medical facilities that have been made available to the beedi workers and their family members; and

(b) how far have these been implemented in different States especially with reference to Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) The details are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

Statement-I

Details of medical facilities made available to the beedi workers and their family members.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARIES

Health care is provided to the beedi workers and their dependents through 5 hospitals and 204 dispensaries all over the country. The 5 hospitals are located at:–

(i) 65 bedded hospital at Dhuliyan, (West Bengal),

(ii) 50 bedded T.B. hospital at Koderma (Jharkhand),

(iii) 50 bedded hospital at Mysore (Karnataka),

(iv) 10 bedded hospital at Gursahaiganj (U.P.),

(v) 30 bedded hospital at Sagar (M.P.).

Two more hospitals are under construction at Biharsharif (Bihar) and Mukkudal Tamil Nadu.

The medical facility are being provided to the beedi workers and family members through various welfare schemes administered by Labour Welfare Organisation as under:–

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Benefits available
1.	Treatment of Cancer	Reimbursement of actual expenditure on treatment, medicines and diet charges incurred by beedi workers and their dependents. Subsistence allowance Rs.750/- per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs.1000/-where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
2.	Treatment of Heart Diseases	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs.1.30 lakh to beedi workers and their dependents. Subsistence allowance Rs.750/- per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs.1000/- where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
3.	Kidney transplantation and allied treatment	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs. 2.00 lakh. Subsistence allowance Rs.750/- per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs.1000/- where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
4.	Treatment of Minor diseases like Hernia, Ulcer etc.	Reimbursement of expenditure upto Rs.30,000/-.
5.	Maternity benefits	Lump sum grant of Rs.1000/- per delivery for the first two deliveries.
6.	Monetary compensation for sterilization	Monetary incentive of Rs.200/- over and above the incentives given by other agencies to the workers/spouses under going vasecotomy/tubectomy.
7.	Treatment of worker suffering from T.B.	Reimbursement of treatment charges upto Rs.50/- per month to cover cost of medicines. Subsistence allowance Rs.750/- per month where the worker has one or no dependent and Rs.1000/-where the dependents are more than one for a period not exceeding nine months.
8.	Financial assistance for purchase of Spectacles	Financial assistance upto Rs.300/- towards the cost of frame and lenses.

Statement-II

Details regarding implementation of medical facilities in different States

(i) In Orissa there are 15 dispensaries to look after medical and health care of beedi workers and their dependents. They are:–

1. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Angul, Distt. Dhenkanal
2. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Salepur, Distt. Cuttack.
3. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Bagedia, Distt. Dhenkanal.
4. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Dasarathpur, Distt. Cuttack.
5. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Rengali, Distt. Sambalpur.
6. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary, Parmanpur, Distt. Sambalpur.
7. Static Dispensary, Brahmabarda, Distt. Cuttack.
8. Static Dispensary, Gholpur, Distt. Cuttack.
9. Static Dispensary, Baideswar, Distt. Cuttack.
10. Static Dispensary, Balijhari, Distt. Cuttack.
11. Static Dispensary, Balasore, Distt. Balasore.
12. Mobile Dispensary, Sambalpur, Distt. Sambalpur.
13. Mobile Dispensary, Bhubaneswar, Distt. Bhubaneswar.
14. Mobile Dispensary, Gujidarada, Distt. Bhadrak.
15. Static-cum-Mobile Dispensary at Kamakhyanagar, Distt. Dhenkanal.

(ii) Physical and Financial Achievement in respect of medical and health care in different regions are as under:–

(Fin. Rs. in thousand)

Schemes	Ajmer		Allahabad		Bangalore		Bhubaneswar (Orrisa)		Hyderabad	
	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Patients treated	363408		323227		627629		368431		1090342	
Domiciliary treatment of T.B. Pts.	1	0	1	0	2	8	3	21	24	102
Treatment of Cancer	1	2	2	92	25	299	7	54	2	117
Purchase of spectacles	102	15	511	77	87	15	5	1	5	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Maternity benefit	420	420	348	348	1028	1028	336	336	228	239
Family welfare operations	7	2	2	–	11	4	–	–	4	1
Treatment for heart diseases	6	25	–	–	32	2535	3	44	3	233
Treatment for kidney diseases	1	–	–	–	2	17	–	–	–	–
Purchase of medicines	–	2265	–	–	–	1297	–	4444	–	6118
Treatment of minor disease	–	–	–	–	21	47	–	–	–	–
Treatment for Gynae disease	2	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

(Fin. Rs. In thousand)

Schemes	Jabalpur		Karma		Kolkata		Nagpur	
	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.	Phy	Fin.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Patients treated	249480		456427	–	519284	–	346448	
Domiciliary treatment of T.B. Pts.	168	708	–	–	580	2678	7	27
Treatment of Cancer	10	235	–	–	20	260	15	125
Purchase of spectacles	822	124	20	3	61	9	117	18
Maternity benefit	409	429	81	81	3289	3287	671	671
Family welfare operations	13	3	–	–	30	6	108	22
Treatment for heart diseases	61	226	–	–	8	184	8	458
Treatment for kidney diseases	7	117	–	–	–	–	2	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Purchase of medicines	–	–	–	4564	–	4000	–	2750
Treatment of minor disease	3	6	–	–	–	–	8	23
Treatment for Gynae disease	3	20	–	–	6	20	–	–

Rate of interest on EPF

2409. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no decision was taken on the rate of interest payable on deposits in EPF during the course of the meeting of EPF Board held in March, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take a long term view on this question, when the economic position of the country is quite sound?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter regarding rate of interest for the year 2006-07 was placed before the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its 179th meeting held on 10.03.2007. However, the matter was deferred as it required more discussions at various levels. Subsequently, the Board in its special meeting held on 23.07.2007 recommended the rate of interest for the year 2006-07 as 8.5%.

(c) As per the provisions of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme 1952, interest is required to be credited to the account of each member at such rate as may be determined by the Central Government in consultation with the Central Board of Trustees. The rate of interest to be credited on EPF accounts in any particular year is determined in such a manner that there should be no overdrawal on the Interest Suspense Account as a result of debit thereto of the interest credited to members' accounts.

Upgrading ITIs into centres of excellence

2410. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many ITIs were upgraded into Centres of Excellence in 2006-07, give State-wise details;

(b) how were such ITIs identified to be upgraded;